

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 SIL-01 LAB-06 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 /072 W
----- 060224

P R 102145Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3223

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

AMCONSUL RIO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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CARACAS FOR REGIONAL MARATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BR, US

SUBJ: SHIPPING; INTRODUCTION OF LASH SERVICE-DELTA LINES PROBLEMS
IN ARGENTINA

REF: STATE 128210

1. SUMMARY. UNEXPECTEDLY MINOR LABOR UNION AT BA PORT HAS DELAYED
LASH INITIAL OPERATIONS. LASH VESSEL DELTAMAR UNABLE TO LEAVE BA
AREA AUGUST 10 AS SCHEDULED. EMBASSY SEEKING GOA ASSISTANCE IN
RESOLVING PROBLEM.

2. LASH VESSEL DELTAMAR, ON INITIAL TRIP TO RIO DE LA PLATA,
ANCHORED OFF BA EARLY AUGUST 9. INTENTION OF DELTA LINE WAS TO
UNLOAD 12 BARGES 4 THOUSAND TONS ON AUGUST 9. ON AUGUST 10 DELTA
LINES' INTENT PERFORM LOADING OPERATION TWENTY NEW BARGES BUILT
IN ARGENTINA WITH 8 THOUSAND TONS FOR EXPORT IN PART DURING
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PERIOD WHEN HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER INVITEES COULD

WATCH ACTION.

3. ON AUGUST 9 MINOR BA PORT UNION TUGBOAT WORKERS REFUSED PARTICIPATE IN OPERATIONS TO MOVE LIGHTERS. AS REPORTED TO US BY DELTA LINES REP ABOUT 10 A.M. AUGUST 10, UNION FIRST BASED REFUSAL ON ALLEGED DISCREPANCIES WITH LABOR LAW. WHEN AT CAPTAIN OF PORT HEARING, THESE SHOWN TO HAVE NO BASIS, UNION WITHDREW STATEMENT AND SUBSTITUTED SECOND STATEMENT CLAIMING REFUSAL TO WORK BECAUSE LASH OPERATION WAS ANOTHER QUOTE ADVANCE OF YANKEE IMPERIALISM WITH ILLEGAL OR IMPROPER INTRODUCTION NEW TECHNOLOGY UNQUOTE. ALSO ACCUSED DELTA LINES OF INTRODUCING CABOTAGE SERVICE.

4. DELTA LINES REPORTS IT FOUND CAPTAIN OF PORT UNWILLING TO TAKE POSITIVE ACTION TO RESOLVE SITUATION. LATER ON AUGUST 9, DELTA LINES SPOKE WITH UNDERSECRETARY FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT. LATTER INDICATED HIS BELIEF DELTA LINES POSITION CORRECT AND LABOR UNIONS ACTION IMPROPER AND ILLEGAL. HE PROMISED TO CONSULT MINISTRY OF LABOR IN EFFORT SECURE PROMPT RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM BUT ALSO INDICATED SITUATION HAD BECOME POLITICAL AND HE WOULD APPRECIATE SUPPORT FROM ANY OTHER AGENCY OF GOA WHICH DELTA LINES OR EMBASSY COULD GENERATE.

5. FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH DELTA REP, EMBASSY HAS SPOKEN WITH UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TETTAMANTI AND UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE MARTINEZ. BOTH APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR (A) BILATERAL RELATIONS (B) DAMAGE TO ARGENTINE REPUTATION IN SHIPPING CIRCLES (C) IMMEDIATE DISADVANTAGE TO GOA OF INTERRUPTION IN MOVEMENT EXPORTS AND IMPORTS. BOTH PROMISED CONSULT MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND LABOR MINISTRY AND TO PUSH FOR PROMPT RESOLUTION.

6. ABOARD DELTAMAR'S INCOMING LIGHTERS IS 700 TONS BUTYL RUBBER NEEDED FOR THREE TIRE PLANTS IN ARGENTINA. ONE OF PLANTS HAS SUPPLY FOR ONLY THREE MORE DAYS AND HAS CALLED UPON ITS RUBBER WORKERS UNION TO PRESS MINISTRY OF LABOR FOR SOLUTION WHICH WILL SEE DELTAMAR UNLOADED PROMPTLY.

7. AS OF 5 P.M. AUGUST 10, EMBASSY HAS NO ASSURANCE PROBLEM RESOLVED. WE ARE CONCERNED DELTA LINES WILL CALL FOR VESSEL TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPART WITHOUT DISCHARGING. WE ARE TOLD IT MUST DEPART BEFORE MONDAY AUGUST 13 BECAUSE IT HAS COMMITMENTS ALONG NORTHBOUND ROUTES. WE HOPE THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN BUT EMBASSY DOES NOT FEEL IT IS JUSTIFIED IN SEEKING INFLUENCING DELTA LINE DECISION. WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS.
KREBS

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